

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiners Greenhut and Lillis for the opportunity to discuss this application during the interview of November 21, 2006. During the interview an agreement was reached that the claims would be amended to include two robots each facing two different respective entrances in order to overcome references of record. At the conclusion of the November 21st interview, an Interview Summary was provided stating that an agreement with respect to the claims was reached, and further stating that a discussion occurred during the interview regarding amending the claims to include two robots each facing two different respective entrances in order to overcome references of record. An After Final Amendment was filed to the independent claims, implementing those agreed upon changes on or about December 5, 2006. Subsequent to the December 5th After Final Amendment filing, an Advisory Action having a mailing date of January 9, 2007 was mailed stating that the After Final Amendment was not entered and rejecting claims 1-25, stating that “no support is provided for more than two other robots as recited in the proposed amendments to claims 1, 6, and 13, and that the inclusion of such limitations would raise issues of new matter.”

The rejection stating that there is no support for more than two other robots and that it would raise issue of new matter is respectfully traversed. The application as originally filed includes language “multiple other robots” in support of the current amendment and the After Final Amendment. *See* for example, Claim 6 in the Application as filed. Since claim 6 is an independent claim, the “multiple other robots” limitation should have been part of the original search obviating the need for a new search. Further it was agreed by Examiner Greenhut and Supervisory Patent Examiner Lillis in the November 21st interview that two (2) robots would

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overcome the reference and equally so should the multiple robot limitations recited in this Amendment. Accordingly, currently amended claims 1, 6 and 13 and their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. In the event the language used in applicants' amendment is deemed unsatisfactory personal contact with the undersigned attorney is encouraged.

Claims 1 – 18 and 20 – 24 are pending and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a work-piece transfer system having a first isolation load lock housed within a load lock housing for transferring a work-piece from a higher pressure region to a lower pressure region and back to said higher pressure region and includes first and second access openings facing said higher pressure region at different angles to allow the first load lock to be accessed from two different directions. A second isolation load lock housed within said load lock housing is positioned next to the first work-piece isolation load lock for transferring a work-piece from a higher pressure region to a lower pressure region and back to said higher pressure region and includes first and second access openings facing said higher pressure region at different angles to allow the second load lock to be accessed from two different directions.

Claim 1 also features a work-piece processing station for processing work-pieces at low pressure and a first robot for transferring work-pieces from one of said first and second work-piece isolation load locks to the work-piece processing station. Multiple other robots positioned in the higher pressure region outside the low pressure region for transferring work-pieces to and from the adjacent work-piece isolation load locks from a source of said work-pieces prior to processing and to a destination of said work-pieces after processing. Each of the multiple other robots is aligned in facing relation for moving workpieces through a specified one of said first and second access openings of a given load lock. To relate this structure to the drawings, it is noted in Figure 7 that each of the robots 146, 148 is aligned with a specified in air access opening of each of the two load locks 116, 117.

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As noted during the interview of November 21, 2006, the structure of claim 1 is neither shown nor suggested in the prior art and therefore this claim is allowable. Claims 2 – 5 depend from allowable claim 1 and are also allowable.

Claim 6 features in part, multiple other robots positioned in an atmospheric region outside the low pressure region for transferring work-pieces to and from adjacent work-piece isolation load locks from a source of said work-pieces prior to processing and to a destination of said work-pieces after said processing. Each of said multiple other robots is aligned in facing relation for moving workpieces through a specified one of said first and second access openings of a given load lock.

This feature of claim 6 is neither shown nor suggested in the prior art and claim 6 is allowable. Claims 7-12 depend from allowable claim 6 and are also allowable.

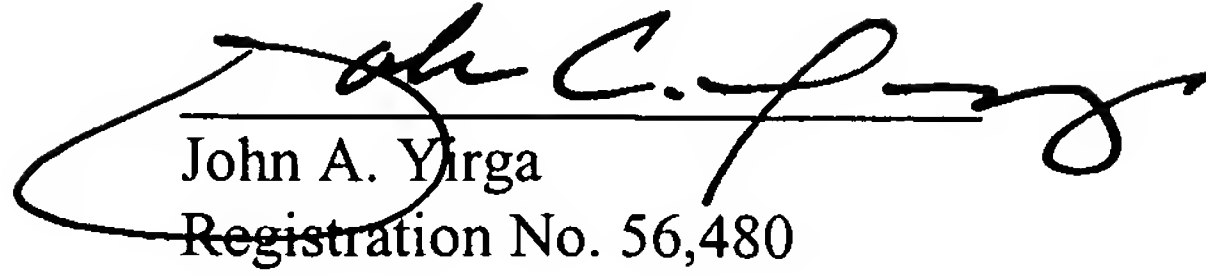
Claim 13 is a method claim and has been amended to feature positioning multiple in-air robots in facing relationship with a specified atmosphere access opening of the two load locks for moving workpieces into and out of said two load locks. An unprocessed work-piece is grasped with one in-air robot and moving said unprocessed work-piece into a first load lock of said two load locks through a first atmospheric load lock access opening having a facing relationship with said one in-air robot and placing the unprocessed work-piece inside the first load lock. These features of amended claim 13 are neither shown nor suggested in the prior art and therefore this claim is allowable.

Claims 14 – 24 depend from allowable claim 13 and are also allowable.

A prompt notice of allowance is solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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